

OCTOBER 2021 • ISSUE 4

EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Phone: 941-575-5485

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We had a little bit of a bumpy start to the school year because of Covid and our big numbers. Our enrollment is the highest it has ever been. We have had over 1200 students since day 1. This caused us to have to do many schedule changes that our students and staff handled very well. We have also had a lot of substitutes on campus due to illness and a teacher shortage. Actually, there is a shortage in almost every type of position in our district. If you or anyone you know is looking for employment, you can go to our district website at yourcharlotteschools.net and click on Employment Opportunities.

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be close to the end of the marking period and report card time already. As you know keeping your middle schooler on track and organized can be a challenge, so I want to make sure you are aware of some resources available to you. You can gain access to the teacher's CANVAS page to see what they are doing in each of their classrooms and gain access to any resources they may have available. You can also log into your child's FOCUS account to see their current grade and what they may be missing. If you need additional assistance, you can make direct contact with your student's teacher through email or by calling on the phone.

One of our big issues every year is school attendance but it is especially crucial this year. Research has shown over and over again that student achievement is related to that student's attendance. We want our students to attend every day and for the full day so they do not miss any instruction. We know there are times when missing a class or a full day cannot be helped due to an appointment or because they are truly sick. If that is the case, please call the attendance line at 575-5490 to keep us informed.

I am looking forward to this year, working with you and your children. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Justina Dionisio, *Principal*

Mrs. Justina Dionisio,
Principal

Ms. Renee McLain,
Assistant Principal, Discipline

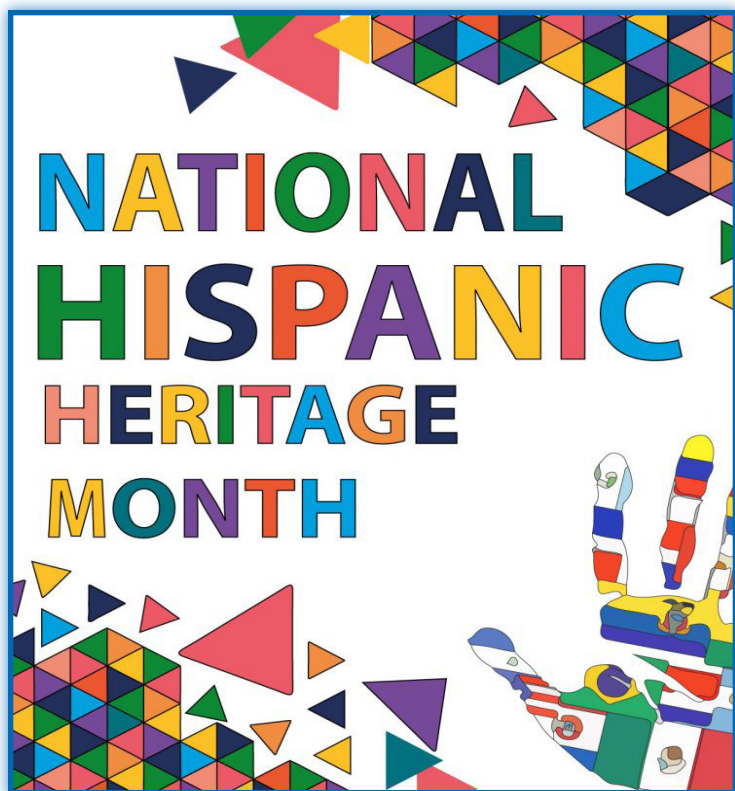
Mrs. Kellee Anderson
Dean of Students

Dr. Scott Nicklas,
Assistant Principal,
Activities & Facilities

Dr. Christine Young,
Assistant Principal, Curriculum

Mr. Douglass Barr,
School Counselor

Where Eagles
SOAR Everyday!



News From Spanish Class

"We are celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month. Twenty-one countries in the world have Spanish as their official language, and many more have it as a second language. Could you name some of those countries?"



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11AM-3PM M-F

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Calendar of Events

October

10/6/2021Fall Retakes
10/7/2021PCM @ PGMS Basketball 5:30 and 6:30
10/9/2021Basketball Playoffs and Championship at PCHS
10/11SAC Mtg, 5:30pm in Media Center
10/12Last of Qtr 1
10/12/2021FIRST DAY OF VOLLEYBALL TRY-OUTS
10/21/2021LAA @ PGMS Volleyball Game Home at 5:30

November

11/1/2021NO SCHOOL for students (PD day for teachers)
11/8SAC Mtg, 5:30pm in Media Center
11/8 - 11/12.....Fall Book Fair
11/24 - 11/26.....No School - Thanksgiving Break



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Drop-Off Procedures

Before school:

During parent drop-off, please do not pass vehicles in the cone area or stop your vehicle on a crosswalk.

During school:

Everyone must be screened before entering campus during school hours, so please stop and intercom the office with your reason for visiting (even if the gate is open.) Please do not park along the curb in front of the lobby. If no parking spaces are available, please use one of the parent pick-up lanes that is closest to the lobby.

After school: Gates open for parent pick-up at 3:45pm. Please do not enter before this time (even if the gate is open.) Also, please keep the gate entrance clear of vehicles. Parents should not park in the Charlotte High parking lot and open gates for students for pick-up.

Did you know we offer a HOMEWORK CLUB?

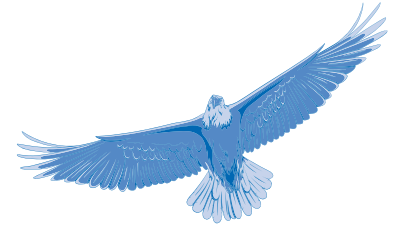
- It offers 30 minutes of homework help for the first half and team building / life skills for the last 30 minutes.
- It is every Monday and Thursday from right after school until 5:20, in room 160.
- We also provide snacks and it is a great way for students to go to games and other school functions that begin at 5:30 since they can come right from our club.

PGMS Fishing Team

Punta Gorda Fishing Team Practices skills for the upcoming Florida Fish and wild High School Fishing State Tournament, which starts October 1st and ends in April. The team is sponsored by Mr. Brian Pavluchuk and is assisted by Bob DiMuzio and Brandon Saunders.



7th Grader, Payton Dano practices throwing a cast net during PGMS' Fishing Club with Mr. Pavluchuk



'Eagle Times'

October 2021

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Issue #4

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Absences

The student attendance line is 941-575-5490. By 10:00 am on any day that your child is absent from school, you should call the attendance line to record the reason for the absence. If your child is absent from school, you will receive a call home, with the first calls going out at 10:15 am. For your convenience, our voicemail is available after school hours to leave messages regarding absences. Regular office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

No Bully Zone

School-wide initiatives at PGMS educate students about bullying and how to effectively interact with others. Our staff incorporate cognitive-skills training on how to interact responsibly, handle controversy and resolve conflicts amicably. Punta Gorda Middle regularly trains staff on Bullying and Abuse recognition, and training is provided to educate students, parents, and community members as well.

PGMS Boy Scouts

PGMS Boy Scouts from Troop 95, 37, 433
Joint Color Guard and Taps - 20th Anniversary September 11

Troop 95

- **Konnor Whichard** - 7th Color Guard
- **Hayden Rudd** - 7th Color Guard
- **Brody Keegan** - 7th Color Guard

Troop 37

- **Liam Halsey** - 8th Grade Color Guard
- **Andrew Anderson** - (Punta Gorda Middle alumni) Color Guard Leader

Troop 433

- **Lief Breton** - 7th Playing Taps
- **Local Boy Scouts from Punta Gorda** - conducted a ceremonial color guard in honor of the 20th Anniversary of September 11th.
- **Mr. Steelnack** - recorded the color guard to be present at a classroom assembly.



Who Should I Contact?

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Christine Young, Assistant Principal

Activities/Athletics/Facilities

Dr. Scott Nicklas, Assistant Principal

Discipline

Ms. Renee McLain, Assistant Principal
Ms. Kellee Anderson, Dean of Students

School Counselors

Mr. Doug Barr

Other Contacts

JoAnn Barr, ESE Liaison
Jena Williams, School Social Worker



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4:10pm to 5:30pm
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For further info contact Tim@whatist1st.com or 941-639-3842 ext 221.

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Student Council News And Spirit Week Information!

Student Council is proud to announce our annual Spirit Week is coming soon. This is a time for students to have some fun and show their school spirit.

Spirit Week will be October 25th-29th. All students are encouraged to participate in the dress up days. But, remember, they must follow the school dress code. **Students can wear hats and/or sunglasses but no masks! Mark your calendar and start planning!**



Monday, October 25th - Pajama Day

- Enjoy learning in comfort by wearing your PJs that fit into the school dress code.
- **(Must have a sleeve and be about the knee)** Think about a robe, slippers, etc. that can add to your pajama fun!

Tuesday, October 26th - Tropical Day

- Aloha! Dig out a Hawaiian shirt, beach hat, grass skirt, Hawaiian lei, etc. Show your happy you are to live in a tropical paradise.

Wednesday, October 27th - Dress for your Favorite Holiday

- Whether it is Halloween, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, or the 4th of July, show us your favorite holiday gear!

Thursday, October 28th - Character Day

- Choose to dress up as your favorite character/historical figure from your favorite book, movie, TV show, time period, etc.

Friday, October 29th - Color Wars by Grade Level

- Which grade has the most school spirit? Let's see! On this final day, each grade level is encouraged to go all out with their designated color:
- **6th grade: RED** • **7th grade: BLUE** • **8th grade: PINK**

Important Reminders

From the school counselors:

- Remember to check the 2021/2022 school calendar when planning vacations to avoid missing exams. This includes Semester 1 exams right before we go on Christmas Break, Dec. 13-17, 2021, as well as Final exams right before the last day of school, May 20-26, 2022.
- FOCUS provides 24-hour access to your child's grades, as well as the opportunity to email teachers with any questions or concerns. Parents/guardians should make sure they have their own login information for FOCUS. This is separate from your student's username and password. Please visit the school website for information on how to set up **your account**.
- CANVAS provides 24-hour access to your student's classroom materials and assignments. FOCUS provides the official grades for classes.

From the school nurse:

- Medication drop-offs will not be accepted from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or after 3:15 p.m. These are very busy periods in the nurse's station. In order to maintain the focus on student care, our nurse is unable to meet with parents/guardians during these times.

Reporting Suspicious Activities or Threats (Fortify Florida)

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to our schools. Any suspicious activity or threat should be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:

- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- The FortifyFL Reporting APP or to the Crime Stoppers Tip Line (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1



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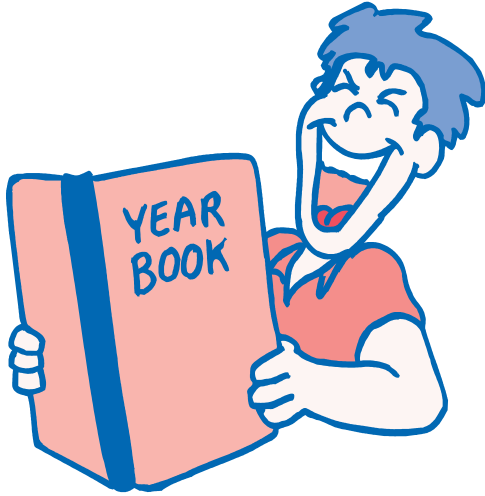
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Yearbooks

Yearbooks can be purchased at www.yearbookforever.com throughout the year but they are cheaper if you purchase before Jan.1st, 2022.

Yearbook Ads from parents and local businesses can also be purchased at www.yearbookforever.com. Please support PGMS Yearbook!



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www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School

News From Drug Free Charlotte

After School De-Stress Routine

After a long day of work, I have a routine to de-stress from the day's activities. Usually, I change my clothes into something comfy, get myself a cup of coffee, and catch up on my personal messages and emails. This is a time that I need to unwind before handling all my nightly tasks and responsibilities.

Our kids deal with daily stresses as well. However, they may not understand the need or be able to express the need to de-stress after a long day also. Learning healthy ways to manage stress is a protective factor that is a crucial skill for kids to use that will help them throughout life. This is a technique that we as parents can teach them. Here are 5 quick tips to help your kids learn how to unwind after a long day at school.

1. **Start a conversation** - Talk to your kids about the importance of having an after-school routine that includes some de-stress time. Talk about some of the healthy things that you may do to help you unwind and ask your child about things that may help them. Make sure to focus on positive and healthy choices and talk about some that aren't healthy and why.
2. **Write it down** - Make a list of ideas that your child comes up with of de-stress activities. If they are struggling to come up with some healthy ideas of their own, you can suggest some. Some possible ideas include: make a snack, be creative (paint, draw, write, sing, build, etc.), read a book, go for a walk/run, spend some time in nature, play a sport, watch funny videos, chat with friends, talk to family, listening to music, play a game, yoga, breathing exercises/meditation.
3. **Set a specific time** - Make sure to set a specific time not just for the unwind routine, but for the rest of the evening too. Include things like homework, dinner, personal hygiene, free time, and family time. Make sure to give some lenience to this as every day is not the same and some activities may take longer than others but having a general plan will help alleviate stress and keep your kiddo on track.
4. **Follow through** - Even some of the best plans can fall through the cracks with kids if they don't have help with reminders. Some kids, especially teens like more independence and may want to set their own reminder on their phones or devices. Younger children may need a reminder from parents to stick to the routine. Talk with your kids about how developing healthy habits requires consistency and time but come with a great pay off.
5. **Evaluate and be flexible** - As schedules change throughout the year, make sure to evaluate if the routine is still working for them. They may need to make some changes to the de-stress routine. Make sure to explain the importance of being flexible with routines as well.



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Volleyball Try-Outs Coming Soon!

- All paperwork **must** be turned in to Coach Damico by **10/11/21**.
- All forms can be printed from the PGMS website under the Athletics tab and then Forms.
- **10/11/2021, 10/12/2021 & 10/13/2021 - VOLLEYBALL TRY-OUTS (after school until 5:45)**



A few spots are left!



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